

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2006 3:25 PM

To: Charter Commission

Cc: Robert Westerman

Subject: FW:

Attached is a letter from Fire Chief Darryl Oliveira of the County of Hawaii Fire Department. If you would like a formal, signed copy, please provide me with the mailing address.

Sincerely,

Laurie Kaneta

Secretary to Fire Chief Darryl Oliveira

-----Original Message-----

From: Oliveira, Darryl

Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2006 1:44 PM

To: Kaneta, Laurie

Subject:

To whom it may concern,

I would like to take this opportunity to provide my support and recommendation for the pursuit and establishment of a Fire Commission for the County of Kauai. As the current and first commission appointed Fire Chief for the County of Hawaii I can attest to the benefits of a Fire Commission as a means of building and fostering trust and integrity in the administration as well as the support and promotion of long range planning for the department. Prior to the establishment of our Fire Commission through the passing of a Charter Amendment in the 2000 General Election, the Fire Chief was a Mayoral Appointee and limited basically to the term of the Mayor. This resulted in great difficulty for any administrator to effectively plan for the direction and growth of the department beyond a four year window. In addition, and without appearing to sound judgmental, the management of the Fire Department often appeared to be based on a political direction rather than a "strategic" one that is based on tangible and measurable goals and objectives aimed at providing the best possible service for every community on the island. Through the establishment of our nine member commission with each member representing a respective council district, the planning and direction of the department is more global and definitive and regardless if the chief or administrator should change, the direction or focus will have some assurance of continuity. Furthermore, I, or any other Fire Chief will be held accountable for the achievement of identified goals and objectives based on our organizations strategic plan as a means of assuring progress and satisfactory performance. I have personally found our commission to be an excellent conduit for information to flow both internally within our organization as well as externally throughout the community. Our commissioners take great pride in learning about the missions and services of our organization and seize any and all opportunities to support the goals and objectives of our department. I have found the concept of a Fire Commission to provide a sense of stability for the organization which is critical for any public safety or emergency service delivery organization to have as our scope of practice and missions constantly evolve and increase. In closing I would like to express my sincerest recommendation and support of the establishment and maintenance of a Fire Commission for the County of Kauai and would welcome the opportunity to provide further testimony or respond to any questions you may have. I would also like to extend the offer of supporting members of our commission traveling to Kauai to discuss their views and perspectives. Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Darryl Oliveira